



City of Fairbanks

Reentry Coordinator

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Wednesday, April 2, 2025

Re: Letter of Support for Senate Bill 62

Dear Senator Tobin:

The Fairbanks Reentry Coalition supports Senate Bill 62, which expands the representation of disciplines and expertise on the Alaska Parole Board to include physicians, mental health care professionals, crime victims, and/or addiction recovery experts. Equally important is the inclusion of a member of one of Alaska's federally recognized Tribes. It is a more diversified representation of our State.

The inclusion of these professionals, victims, and Tribal perspectives adds depth to the Parole Board's decision-making processes. It helps address significant Alaskan issues, such as the overrepresentation of Alaska Natives within our prison populations or the unexplained decline in the board's granting of discretionary parole in recent years.

The mission of the Fairbanks Reentry Coalition is to promote public safety within the community by identifying and implementing strategies that increase the success of justice-involved individuals and reduce the likelihood of recidivism. This Bill helps reflect what we are attempting to do for returning citizens.

Senate Bill 62's thoughtful implementation of a broader and more diversified Parole Board makeup, adding expertise in understanding criminogenic needs, seems like a recipe for reentry success.

Sincerely in service,

Marsha J Oss

Marsha J. Oss
AA, BA, CADC, CDC II, BHC II, TPSS III